W5YI REPORT

Up to the minute news from the worlds of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

Dits & Bits

Fred Maia, W5YI, Editor, P.O. Box 10101, Dallas, TX 75207

★*In This Issue*★

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1984 - The Telecommunications Year in Review

This issue begins our 7th year of publishing The W5YI Report. As has been our practice in prior years, we are highlighting the major amateur radio and telecommunications stories of 1984.

(1.) FCC gave their final amateur radio examinations during November 1984. VEC's were appointed to act as coordinators for the FCC and amateur radio operator testing was turned over to the amateur community. Reimbursement of up to $4.00 testing expenses was approved by Congress and the FCC. The W5YI Report was first to apply to act as a VEC in all areas. The ARRL similarly applied once expense reimbursement was authorized.

(2.) Amateur radio showed no growth during 1984 with fewer new amateurs being licensed and substantially fewer upgrades. (Complete VEC and amateur radio statistics in this issue.)

(3.) Not only was amateur testing discontinued by the FCC, but commercial radio operator testing as well. Mandated by Congress, industry groups now administer "technician certification" programs as an alternative to FCC testing. The FCC, while supporting industry certification, does not require it.

(4.) The FCC began mailing ten year term amateur radio operator licenses during early 1984. Grace period for expired station and operator licenses now is two years.

(5.) First amateur radio operator to be sentenced to jail for an amateur radio violation is imprisoned. Richard A. Burton (ex-WB6JAC) of Reseda, Californa was cited for repeatedly operating his amateur station after license revocation. He has now been released from jail.

(6.) The FCC released a NPRM looking toward implementing new Amateur Radio Service privileges authorized five years earlier by WARC at 30, 17, 12 meters and 902-928 MHz. 1985 will see FCC action on this proposed rule making.

(7.) The Olympics got underway with considerable amateur support. The principal means of communication for the Torch Run throughout the United States was ham radio provided by employees of AT&T. Amateur station (NG84O) relayed messages home for Olympic participants.

(8.) Rules were changed to allow full maximum (1500 watts output) power in the 160 meter ham band since protection to Canadian LORAN is no longer needed. The FCC proposed to allow additional emissions in the 160 meter band and warned the amateur community that the ham band could be reduced in size due to the pending WARC expansion of AM broadcasting and the necessity to relocate Radiolocation operations.

(9.) Although the 1979 WARC accord clearly

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provided for sharing the 220-MHz ham band with Land Mobile, amateurs became very concerned when it appeared that a portion of the 1-1/4 meter band might be lost to business and/or public safety interests. Amateurs instantly reacted when two petitions filed by industry suggested that spectrum might be reallocated from the 220 MHz band to Land Mobile users.

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(11.) ARRL staff morale tumbled as League employees became disheartened over generally stricter handling by the Directors. Loss of the four day work week was very poorly received at headquarters. The ARRL Employee's Council was formed and an election to determine whether the staff should be represented by a union was later defeated. Several staff employees have terminated their employment with the League. Rumor has it that the union situation will surface again during 1985. (The undercurrent that we are hearing is that the possible relocation of League headquarters is actually a union busting measure rather than a member benefit.)

(12.) The "flavor" of FCC communications rule making continued to be "Regulation by Marketplace." The Commission generally refused to take positions and adopt standards - instead creating the climate for new technologies to reach the public and seek their own fortunes.

(13.) In a temporary move to relieve overcrowding, FCC increased the number of cordless telephone channels from five to fifteen.

(14.) The telecommunications industry awaited the FCC decision regarding establishing a new low cost form of mobile radiotelephone called PRCS (Personal Radio Communications System) petitioned for by General Electric. Just before the the FCC was to make their decision on allocating 900-MHz spectrum for the new service, the petitioner pulled out saying that they couldn't make any money manufacturing the equipment. Reportedly, the cost of tooling up for PRCS gear was too high and GE was concerned that the equipment would ultimately be made by off shore manufacturers anyway who already have expertise to make the sophisicated addressable 900-MHz radios.

(15.) Cable interests became very concerned about the proliferation of backyard dishes that could receive cable programming without payment. A bill became law legalizing the manufacture and use of home-owned satellite receive stations and provided a method for programmers to charge TVRO owners for their receipt of unencrypted programming. Collection of these fees will be a major story during 1985.

(16.) Home satellite station owners were the target of zoning restrictions when many municipalities enacted ordinances barring backyard dishes as unsightly. A Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) carrier asked the FCC to declare that local ordinances covering satellite dishes are pre-empted by federal statute. The ARRL also requested that the Commission issue a similar ruling on amateur radio antennas.

(17.) In consumer electronics, satellite video and video cassette recorders (VCR's) were the big guns! There were some 720,000 home earth stations in the country at year end with 35,000 new dishes being added each month at an average cost of $2,100! Programmers (such as HBO, Cinemax, Showtime...) are scrambling their signals. One family in five now has a VCR.

(18.) IBM and Apple were the biggest sellers of personal computers in 1984. Big Blue now has a 40% share of the market... Apple 25%. Everyone else was an "also ran." AT&T joined the personal computing fray in 1984 for the first time and it promises to be a three way race in the future.

(19.) In software, "windowing" (the ability of a micro to run several programs at once and jump between them) was the big development... Lotus 1-2-3 was the big seller. In hardware, pointing devices (such as MacIntosh's "mouse" that accesses CRT graphics and "touch screens") made communicating with the computer easier. IBM developed the first defect free million-bit dynamic RAM chip.

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AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR EXAMINATION QUESTIONS A booklet containing the FCC Amateur Radio Operator Study Guide and all 1600 actual test questions for all ham classes (Novice through Extra Class) now available for $2.50 (postpaid) from: THE W5YI REPORT; 1020 Byron Lane; Arlington, TX - 76012
Note our new phone number.... (817) 461-6443

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Region 7:

Boeing Empl.ARS; PO Box #3607; Seattle, WA 98124

Region 8:

Dayton ARA; PO Box #44; Dayton, OH 45401

Region 9:

DeVry ARS; 300 N. Campbell Ave.; Chicago, IL 60618

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PHD ARA; PO Box #11; Liberty, MO 64068

Region 11 - Alaska:

Anchorage ARC; PO Box #101987; Anchorage, AK 99510

Region 12 - Caribbean:

MARS; PO Box #7388; Cidra, Puerto Rico 00639

Region 13 - Hawaii & Pacific:

Honolulu ARC; 3251 Pakanu St.; Honolulu, HI 9682

Koolau ARC; 45-529 Nakuluai St.; Kaneohe, HI 96744

Sunnyvale ARC; PO Box #60031; Sunnyvale, CA 94008-0031

ALPHABET SOUP MEDIA MOSTLY FAILS...

One of the major stories of 1984 was the fate of "the new media" such as STV, DBS, MDS, LPTV, MMDS, Teletext, Videotext.... Companies bet (and most frequently lost) millions trying to determine what the consumer and advertiser would pay for. At this point, only broadcasting and cable seem firmly entrenched. All of the others are struggling... or failing.

Subscription TV broadcasts commercial-free encoded programming to subscribers. Two years ago it was the medium of the future. Today, due to cable and VCR competition, STV is only 30% of what it was in 1982 and continues to deteriorate fast. Most areas that had STV have discontinued it.

MMDS (Multi-channel Multipoint Distribution Service) is the newest medium to enter the video ratrace. The first so-called "wireless cable" service began broadcasting over four channels just last month in a Washington, DC, area which is yet to be wired for cable. Eight channels will ultimately be available. MMDS uses spectrum originally allocated for instructional and educational programming.

The cost is not cheap... $34.95 a month after a $250 installation charge and it remains to be seen just how successful MMDS will be. Their primary market will be those homes not yet wired for cable and those wishing "adult" entertainment not suitable for municipal regulated cable. Single channel MDS, like STV, is almost a relic of the past.

Direct Broadcast Satellites (DBS) is also starting to look like a lost cause. Giant Comsat's Communications Satellite Corporation just bowed out. They wrote off $140 million in red ink! USCI, the only operational DBS service (in the midwest) is doing very poorly. Of the eight first round entrants, few remain (although three more companies have just entered the battle.) DBS's competition is no longer broadcasting or cable. It appears the NAB really had nothing to worry about. DBS competition will come from MMDS and the backyard satellite dish.

Low Power Television is on the air, although most are just "translators" rebroadcasting existing stations or miscellaneous programming from a variety of sources. While the purpose of LPTV was to provide low cost local programming, it hasn't worked out that way.

Widespread use of Teletext and Videotex (CRT displayed information delivered via telephone, cable or broadcast circuits) seems premature. NBC is pulling the plug on its North American-based teletext operation. They blame lack of affordable decoders as the cause. CBS still broadcasts a 100-page service. Time Magazine has already written off its $35 million satellite delivered cable teletext service.

But Taft Broadcasting says they will begin a teletext service in 1985 using the "world system" standard which uses a $300 decoder rather than the $900 one required by the North American Standard. Zenith also will manufacture television sets in 1985 that have the world standard in place. We'll have to see what affect that has on teletext proliferation. Many analysts believe that computer-based information will never catch on. "It's easier and cheaper to buy a newspaper."

VEC	PASS RATE
SANDARC	68%
ARRL-6	59%
ARRL-3	58%
W5YI-5	57%
DAYTON	57%
W5YI-1	56%
DALLAS	54%
DEVRY	53%
ARRL-13	52%
SUNNYVALE	52%
ARRL-7	49%
CEN. ALABAMA	49%
BOEING	48%
---A V E R A G E---48%----	
W5YI-7	48%
METROPLEX	46%
GLAARG	46%
TRIAD	45%
ARRL-5	45%
ARRL-1	44%
ARRL-8	42%
ARRL-10	42%
W.CAROLINA	41%
ARRL-9	39%
W5YI-9	39%
LAUREL	36%
ARRL-4	36%
ANCHORAGE	34%
PHD	22%

Radio Region/VEC	Number Sessions	ELEMENTS Given/Passed	Pass Percent
1. W5YI-1	1	27/15	56%
1. ARRL-1	1	25/11	44%
2. Metroplex	4	185/86	46%
3. ARRL-3	2	77/45	58%
3. Laurel	1	11/4	36%
4. ARRL-4	6	212/76	36%
4. Cen. Ala.	8	193/95	49%
4. W.Carolina	5	172/71	41%
4. Triad	1	33/15	45%
5. W5YI-5	2	58/33	57%
5. ARRL-5	3	51/23	45%
5. Dallas	2	39/21	54%
6. GLAARG	5	225/105	46%
6. ARRL-6	3	91/54	59%
6. SANDARC	4	47/32	68%
6. Sunnyvale	1	23/12	52%
7. Boeing	4	87/42	48%
7. ARRL-7	2	45/22	49%
7. W5YI-7	2	29/14	48%
8. Dayton	6	157/83	57%
8. ARRL-8	1	12/5	42%
9. DeVry	16	298/157	53%
9. W5YI-9	1	21/8	38%
9. ARRL-9	2	18/7	39%
10. PHD	1	27/6	22%
10. ARRL-10	1	12/5	42%
11. Anchorage	2	44/15	34%
13. ARRL-13	2	21/11	52%
	89	2240/1072	48%

VEC's Covered by November Statistics

All Regions:

ARRL; 225 Main St; Newington, CT 06111
W5YI; PO Box #10101; Dallas, TX 75207

Region 2:

Metroplex ACA; PO Box #237; Laconia NJ 07606
Schenectady ARA; PO Box #6; Alplaus, NY 12008.

Region 3:

Laurel ARC; PO Box #3039; Laurel, MD 20708

Region 4:

Central Alabama VEC; 606 Tremont St.; Selma, Alabama 36701
Mid-South VEC; 2020 St. Elmo; Memphis, TN 28213
Western Carolina ARS; PO Box #16189; Asheville, NC 28816
Charlotte VEC; 227 Bennett Lane; Charlotte, NC 28213
Triad Emergency ARC; 3504 Stonehurst Pl; High Point, NC

Region 5:

Dallas ARC; PO Box #173; Dallas, TX 75211
Mid-South VEC; 2020 St. Elmo; Memphis, TN 28213

Region 6:

Greater Los Angeles ARG; S. Shafit; 21921 Lanark #201; Canoga Park, CA 91304
SANDARC VEC; PO Box #5023; LaMesa, CA 92041

JUICY RUMOR...

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AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS ISSUED....

as of the first of December are as follows:

Radio District	Group "A" Extra	"B" Adv.	"C" Tech/Gen	"D" Novice
Ø	NIØN	KDØTM	NØFUN	KAØTTK
1	KX1P	KB1QD	N1DHG	KA1MIM
2	NG2Y	KD2JU	N2FFB	KA2WFJ
3	KU3V	KC3QE	N3EEC	KA3NJL
4	AA4GO	KI4WC	N4LBX	KB4MCO
5	NT5H	KE5UH	N5HMH	KA5VAS
6	WD6L	KG6MR	N6LGV	KB6HDM
7	NK7F	KE7BZ	N7GSP	KA7UCC
8	NK8M	KD8VL	N8GDX	KA8VNZ
9	NC9H	KD9LY	N9EWB	KA9SSN
N.Mariana I.	AHØD	AHØAC	KHØAG	WHØAAG
Guam	AH2T	AH2BA	KH2BR	WH2AEQ
Johnston Is.	AH3A	AH3AC	KH3AB	WH3AAC
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AD	WH4AAF
Hawaii	WH6V	AH6FW	NH6CV	WH6BBT
Kure Is.			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8B	AH8AB	KH8AD	WH8AAO
Wake Wilkes	Peale	AH9AB	KH9AB	WH9AAB
Alaska	(*)	AH9AB	KH9AB	WH9AAB
Virgin Is.	KP2L	KP2AT	NP2BE	WP2AEB
Puerto Rico	WP4D	KP4IF	NP4LL	WP4DWE

(*) Group "A" call signs used up in Alaska. Group "B" calls now being issued. All two-by-one call signs have been issued in the 4th radio district. When the AA4AA though AK4ZZ block (except AH4 which will not be issued) are gone, then Group "B" will be assigned to Extra Class amateurs.

During November 1984, 8,630 licenses were handled by the FCC in Gettysburg with an average processing time of 14 working days... about 3 calendar weeks.

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ILLEGAL CB RADIO IMPORTER ARRESTED....

On November 30 and December 3, 1984, engineers from the FCC's New York District Office and Special Agents from U.S. Customs conducted a search and seizure of over 2,700 pieces of electronic equipment, including CB transceivers, walkie-talkies and FM receivers having an estimated value of $500,000. The search warrant was issued against Granada Electronics, 485 Kent Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

The seized items were manufactured in the far east and were imported into the United States for illegal sale. The CB radios were capable of operating on unauthorized frequency channels using excessive transmitter power. The FCC said that the radios "did not have the Commission's required type acceptance" which would permit their marketing in the U.S. and "were a potential source of interference to essential radio services and to home electronic entertainment equipment." Also seized were Granada's business records which reflected the illicit importation and sale of electronic items all over the country.

Additionally, U.S. Custom Agents arrested Lawrence Wallach of LW Sales of Lynbrook, NY, for the "unlawful sale of non-type acepted CB transceivers which were illegally brought into the United States."

Wallach and Granada were the subject of a two year Commission investigation into the importation and marketing of non-type accepted electronic equipment. Wallach, age 27, appeared before the U.S. Magistrate in the Eastern District of New York on December 3, 1984 and was released on a $10,000 personal recognizance bond. He faces up to 5 years imprisonment and 5,000 in fines if convicted.

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HIGH TECH U.S. PIRATE RADIO SHIP....

No one would ever guess that the most popular broadcast band station in Britain is an American radio station! But its true... and a very interesting story... the ramifications of which are just now unfolding! "Radio Laser 558" claims 5 million listeners and 20 percent of London's radio audience.

The 25 kilowatt station went on the air last April broadcasting in international waters from 14 miles off of the English coast aboard the N.V. Communicator, a large ship of Panamanian registry. The ship sailed from Miami exactly a year ago with six young American disc jockeys who were recruited from blind job ads. They had no idea what they were getting into! One of the DJ's is a young lady named Jessie Brandon who is so popular in England that she is being hired away by a legal English

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER "I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and

broadcaster (Capital Radio) desperate to compete with Radio Laser. (That's if she can get a work permit.)

The pirate radio station is actually a well financed venture of New York's "Eurad" (supposedly for Eurpopean Advertising) company. Not too much is known about the firm except that they have invested $2 million dollars in the broadcasting concept thus far and continue to spend at the rate of $20,000 a week to keep the pirate station afloat. They even have a New York sales office... "Music Media International."

The secret to their success is their format and the American DJ accent. Britain has rigid programming limitations and restricts the amount of music that can be played over the air. Laser 558 answers a need and broadcasts from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. daily with an all music Top 40 hits and golden oldies "Never more than a minute from music" format. After broadcasting commercial-free for the first five months, Eurad now is selling advertising.

The commercials are downloaded via a sophisticated satellite relay. The pirate ship gets new music the same way. Reportedly, USA Today, the national newspaper is an advertiser.

British authorities don't know what to do about the station. It is out of their area of jurisdiction. A 1967 law makes it illegal, however, to support pirate radio stations in any way. Word has it that they get their supplies through Spain.

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3.700-3.750 MHz.	CW(*)	E.A.G.T.N.
3.750-3.775 MHz.	CW/Phone	E.
3.775-3.850 MHz.	CW/Phone	E.A.
3.850-4.000 MHz.	CW/Phone	E.A.G.
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7.000-7.025 MHz.	CW	E.
7.025-7.100 MHz.	CW	E.A.G.
7.100-7.150 MHz.	CW(*)	E.A.G.T.N.
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20 Meters:		
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14.175-14.225 MHz.	CW/Phone	E.A.
14.225-14.350 MHz.	CW/Phone	E.A.G.
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4	AA4GO	KI4WC	N4LBX	KB4MCO
5	NT5H	KE5UH	N5HMH	KA5VAS
6	WD6L	KG6MR	N6LGV	KB6HDM
7	NK7F	KE7BZ	N7GSP	KA7UCC
8	NK8M	KD8VL	N8GDX	KA8VNZ
9	NC9H	KD9LY	N9EWB	KA9SSN
N.Mariana I.	AHØD	AHØAC	KHØAG	WHØAAG
Guam	AH2T	AH2BA	KH2BR	WH2AEQ
Johnston Is.	AH3A	AH3AC	KH3AB	WH3AAC
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AD	WH4AAF
Hawaii	WH6V	AH6FW	NH6CV	WH6BBT
Kure Is.			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8B	AH8AB	KH8AD	WH8AAO
Wake Wilkes	Peale	AH9AB	KH9AB	WH9AAB
Alaska	(*)	AH9AB	KH9AB	WH9AAB
Virgin Is.	KP2L	KP2AT	NP2BE	WP2AEB
Puerto Rico	WP4D	KP4IF	NP4LL	WP4DWE

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W5YI-5	58
ARRL-5	51
SANDARC	47
ARRL-7	45
ANCHORAGE	44
DALLAS	39
TRIAD	33
W5YI-7	29
W5YI-1	27
PHD	27
ARRL-1	25
SUNNYVALE	23
W5YI-9	21
ARRL-13	21
ARRL-9	18
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LAUREL	11
MID-SOUTH-4	0
ARRL-2	0
MOUNTAIN	0
MARS	0
W5YI-2	0
SCHENECTADY	0
ADIRONDAK	0
W5YI-3	0
W5YI-4	0
CHARLOTTE	0
MID-SOUTH-5	0
W5YI-6	0
W5YI-8	0
W5YI-10	0
W5YI-11	0
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ARRL-12	0
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51 VEC's - 55% Participating

broadcaster (Capital Radio) desperate to compete with Radio Laser. (That's if she can get a work permit.)

The pirate radio station is actually a well financed venture of New York's "Eurad" (supposedly for Eurpopean Advertising) company. Not too much is known about the firm except that they have invested $2 million dollars in the broadcasting concept thus far and continue to spend at the rate of $20,000 a week to keep the pirate station afloat. They even have a New York sales office... "Music Media International."

The secret to their success is their format and the American DJ accent. Britain has rigid programming limitations and restricts the amount of music that can be played over the air. Laser 558 answers a need and broadcasts from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. daily with an all music Top 40 hits and golden oldies "Never more than a minute from music" format. After broadcasting commercial-free for the first five months, Eurad now is selling advertising.

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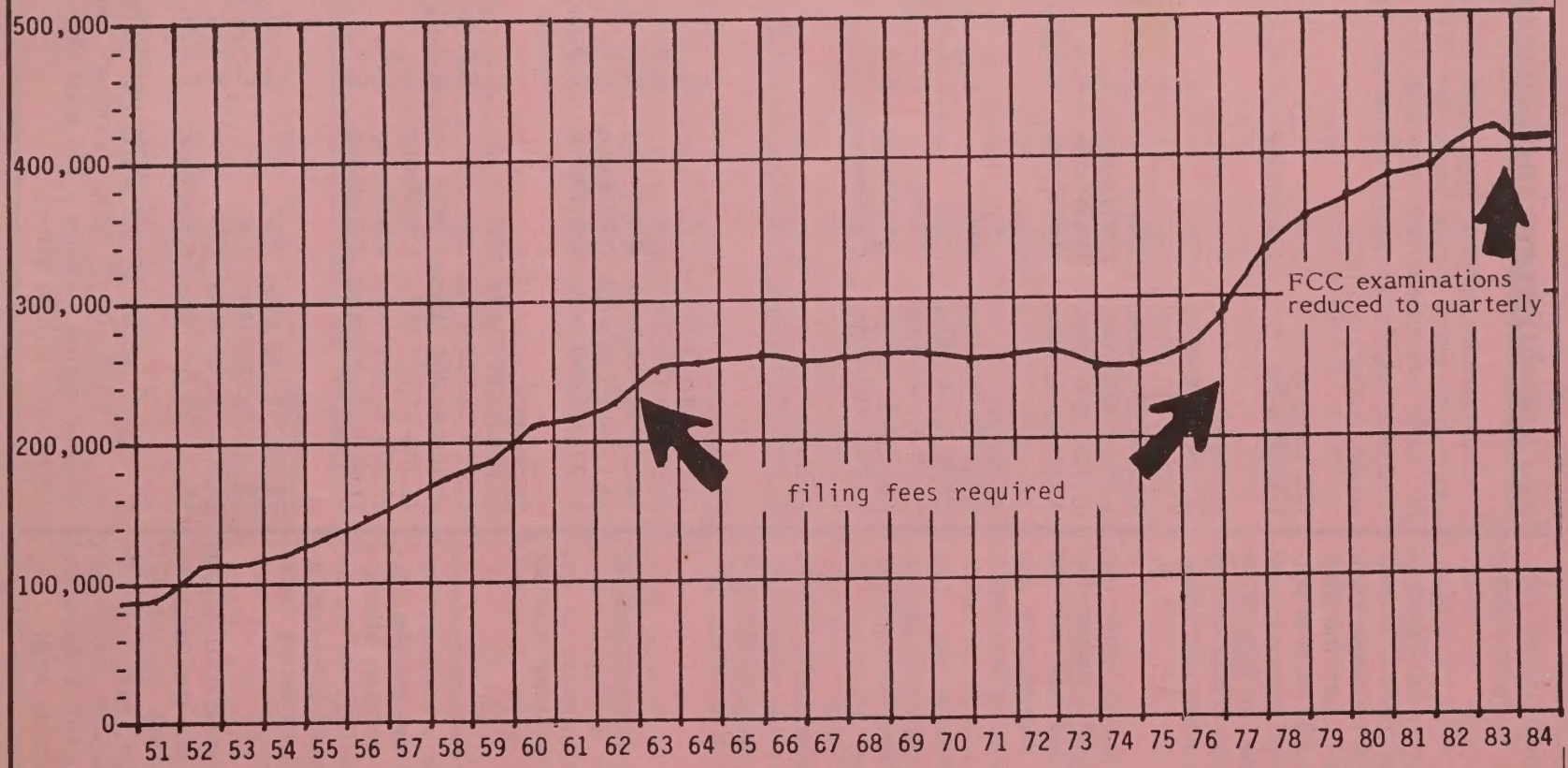

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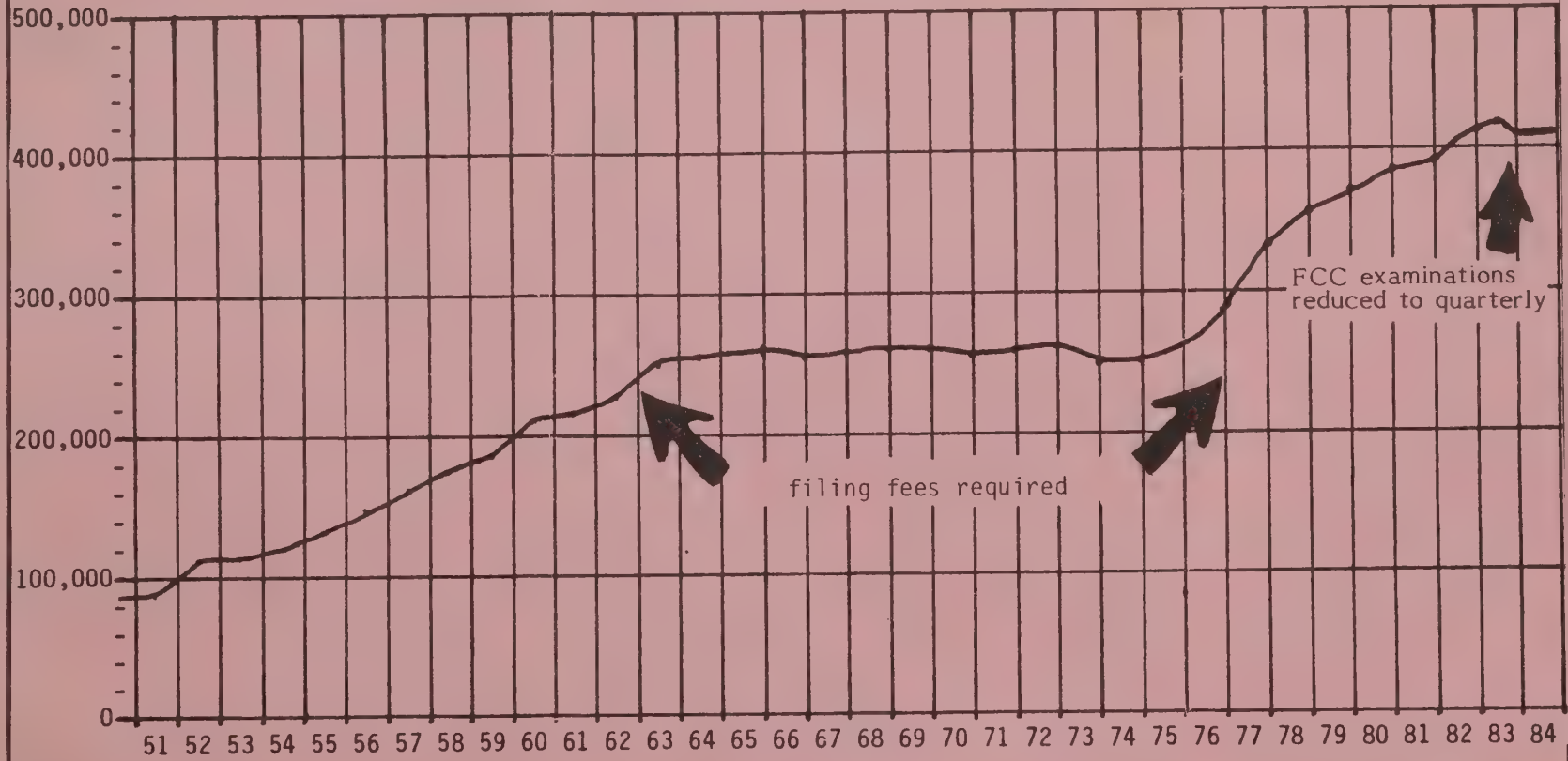

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ARRL-5	45%
ARRL-1	44%
ARRL-8	42%
ARRL-10	42%
W.CAROLINA	41%
ARRL-9	39%
W5YI-9	39%
LAUREL	36%
ARRL-4	36%
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8. ARRL-8	1	12/5	42%
9. DeVry	16	298/157	53%
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13. ARRL-13	2	21/11	52%
	89	2240/1072	48%

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SANDARC VEC; PO Box #5023; LaMesa, CA 92041

JUICY RUMOR...

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Koolau ARC; 45-529 Nakuluai St.; Kaneohe, HI 96744

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Note our new phone number.... (817) 461-6443

ALPHABET SOUP MEDIA MOSTLY FAILS...

One of the major stories of 1984 was the fate of "the new media" such as STV, DBS, MDS, LPTV, MMDS, Teletext, Videotext.... Companies bet (and most frequently lost) millions trying to determine what the consumer and advertiser would pay for. At this point, only broadcasting and cable seem firmly entrenched. All of the others are struggling... or failing.

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VEC	PASS RATE
SANDARC	68%
ARRL-6	59%
ARRL-3	58%
W5YI-5	57%
DAYTON	57%
W5YI-1	56%
DALLAS	54%
DEVRY	53%
ARRL-13	52%
SUNNYVALE	52%
ARRL-7	49%
CEN. ALABAMA	49%
BOEING	48%
---A V E R A G E---48%----	
W5YI-7	48%
METROPLEX	46%
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JUICY RUMOR...

There may be nothing to this, but one of our sources told us that the ARRL and the FCC are engaged in discussions looking toward the eventual possibility of the League assuming the Amateur Radio station call sign issuance function. Will try to get this confirmed and report back to you.

1984 AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE STATISTICS

The FCC has released their Amateur Radio Service analysis for the 1984 fiscal year ending October 1, 1984. In general, the service showed a lack of growth with the total number of amateurs remaining about the same level as last year (actually 844 less).

At year end there were 409,923 U.S. licensed amateur radio operators. The statistics also showed a decline in the number new amateur operators and a substantial decline in upgrades. The following are some highlights taken from the FCC Private Radio Bureau Amateur Radio Service analysis.

TOTAL NUMBER OF AMATEUR LICENSEES

	1984 versus 1983	
NOVICE	80,461	86,781
TECHNICIAN	79,950	76,433
GENERAL	116,804	118,263
ADVANCED	97,084	95,381
EXTRA	35,624	33,909
TOTAL OPERATORS:	409,923	410,767

NUMBER OF NEWLY LICENSED AMATEURS

	1984 versus 1983	
NOVICE	17,392	18,744
TECHNICIAN	730	1,067
GENERAL	476	803
ADVANCED	161	254
AMATEUR EXTRA	41	72
(Loss 11.3%)	18,800	20,940

TOTAL NEW LICENSEES BY MONTH

OCTOBER - 1983	1,076
NOVEMBER - 1983	1,169
DECEMBER - 1983	2,088
JANUARY - 1984	1,887
FEBRUARY - 1984	1,179
MARCH - 1984	2,624
APRIL - 1984	2,073
MAY - 1984	1,898
JUNE - 1984	2,072
JULY - 1984	987
AUGUST - 1984	968
SEPTEMBER - 1984	779
TOTAL:	18,800

FISCAL 1984 UPGRADES

From/To:	Number:
NOVICE/TECHNICIAN	6,724
NOVICE/GENERAL	1,876
NOVICE/ADVANCED	213
NOVICE/EXTRA	16
FY-1984 NOVICE UPGRADES:	8,829
FY-1983 NOVICE UPGRADES:	10,274
TECHNICIAN/GENERAL	1,917
TECHNICIAN/ADVANCED	581
TECHNICIAN/EXTRA	6
FY-1984 TECHNICIAN UPGRADES:	2,504
FY-1983 TECHNICIAN UPGRADES:	4,478
GENERAL/ADVANCED	3,120
GENERAL/EXTRA	241
FY-1984 GENERAL UPGRADES:	3,361
FY-1983 GENERAL UPGRADES:	5,218
FY-1984 ADVANCED/EXTRA	1,490
FY-1983 ADVANCED/EXTRA	3,004
GRAND TOTAL FY-1984 UPGRADES:	16,184
GRAND TOTAL FY-1983 UPGRADES:	23,024
PERCENT DECLINE IN UPGRADES:	(29.7%)

DISTRIBUTION OF OPERATORS BY CLASS

	Dec. 1965	Nov. 1974	Oct. 1984	Ideal Distrib.
NOVICE	6%	9%	20%	30%
TECHNICIAN	22%	19%	20%	25%
GENERAL	55%	43%	29%	20%
ADVANCED	15%	24%	23%	15%
EXTRA	2%	5%	8%	10%
Total Operators:	260,301	254,683	410,066	

provided for sharing the 220-MHz ham band with Land Mobile, amateurs became very concerned when it appeared that a portion of the 1-1/4 meter band might be lost to business and/or public safety interests. Amateurs instantly reacted when two petitions filed by industry suggested that spectrum might be reallocated from the 220 MHz band to Land Mobile users.

(10.) A new amateur radio mode came to the forefront during 1984. "Packet radio" allows addressable multiple digital messages to be routed along a single channel. Plans were made for a "flying packet mailbox" - messages stored in an orbitting satellite for later retrieval by amateur radio operators.

(11.) ARRL staff morale tumbled as League employees became disheartened over generally stricter handling by the Directors. Loss of the four day work week was very poorly received at headquarters. The ARRL Employee's Council was formed and an election to determine whether the staff should be represented by a union was later defeated. Several staff employees have terminated their employment with the League. Rumor has it that the union situation will surface again during 1985. (The undercurrent that we are hearing is that the possible relocation of League headquarters is actually a union busting measure rather than a member benefit.)

(12.) The "flavor" of FCC communications rule making continued to be "Regulation by Marketplace." The Commission generally refused to take positions and adopt standards - instead creating the climate for new technologies to reach the public and seek their own fortunes.

(13.) In a temporary move to relieve overcrowding, FCC increased the number of cordless telephone channels from five to fifteen.

(14.) The telecommunications industry awaited the FCC decision regarding establishing a new low cost form of mobile radiotelephone called PRCS (Personal Radio Communications System) petitioned for by General Electric. Just before the the FCC was to make their decision on allocating 900-MHz spectrum for the new service, the petitioner pulled out saying that they couldn't make any money manufacturing the equipment. Reportedly, the cost of tooling up for PRCS gear was too high and GE was concerned that the equipment would ultimately be made by off shore manufacturers anyway who already have expertise to make the sophisicated addressable 900-MHz radios.

(15.) Cable interests became very concerned about the proliferation of backyard dishes that could receive cable programming without payment. A bill became law legalizing the manufacture and use of home-owned satellite receive stations and provided a method for programmers to charge TVRO owners for their receipt of unencrypted programming. Collection of these fees will be a major story during 1985.

(16.) Home satellite station owners were the target of zoning restrictions when many municipalities enacted ordinances barring backyard dishes as unsightly. A Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) carrier asked the FCC to declare that local ordinances covering satellite dishes are pre-empted by federal statute. The ARRL also requested that the Commission issue a similar ruling on amateur radio antennas.

(17.) In consumer electronics, satellite video and video cassette recorders (VCR's) were the big guns! There were some 720,000 home earth stations in the country at year end with 35,000 new dishes being added each month at an average cost of $2,100! Programmers (such as HBO, Cinemax, Showtime...) are scrambling their signals. One family in five now has a VCR.

(18.) IBM and Apple were the biggest sellers of personal computers in 1984. Big Blue now has a 40% share of the market... Apple 25%. Everyone else was an "also ran." AT&T joined the personal computing fray in 1984 for the first time and it promises to be a three way race in the future.

(19.) In software, "windowing" (the ability of a micro to run several programs at once and jump between them) was the big development... Lotus 1-2-3 was the big seller. In hardware, pointing devices (such as MacIntosh's "mouse" that accesses CRT graphics and "touch screens") made communicating with the computer easier. IBM developed the first defect free million-bit dynamic RAM chip.

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR EXAMINATION QUESTIONS A booklet containing the FCC Amateur Radio Operator Study Guide and all 1600 actual test questions for all ham classes (Novice through Extra Class) now available for $2.50 (postpaid) from: THE W5YI REPORT; 1020 Byron Lane; Arlington, TX - 76012
Note our new phone number... (817) 461-6443

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FCC ISSUES NEW HAM EXAM STUDY GUIDE

The Commission has issued a new Study Guide for the Amateur Radio Operator License examinations. It replaces the syllabus issued just last February. For the most part, changes were editorial in nature... but there were a few new topics added:

Element 2 Novice: Sunspot Cycles
Element 3 Tech/Gen.: Auxilliary operation, geomagnetic disturbances, new WARC emission designators.
Element 4A Advanced: Lissajous figures, frequency synthesizers, mechanical filters.
Element 4B Extra: Volunteer program expense reimbursement, and long path, crooked path and Gray line propagation.

A few deletions were also incorporated (for example, it is no longer required that a Novice know the CW abbreviation: "73.") Copy of the new Study Guide available from us for $1.00 plus large business size SASE.

NEW HAM EXAMINATION STUDY MATERIAL

Amateur examinations were recently held for December graduating students of the West Radio School run by Gordon West, WB6NOA, nationally acclaimed amateur radio columnist and classroom instructor. The pass rate was one of the highest we have seen! (89 out of 102... 87%... passed the Element 3 alone.) The examinations were conducted at nearby Orange Coast College by VE's not associated with the West Radio School.

The high pass rate is understandable when you realize that West teaches his classes from test guides that contain all of the actual multiple choice questions, distractors (wrong answers) and correct answers along with a reference to where the right answer can be found. He uses the multiple choice questions prepared by the ARRL. The League is already on record as saying that the ham exam bank should not only include the questions, but the answers and distractors as well. West is the first to pick up on this.

Some long time amateurs have been critical of his system saying that it gives his students an advantage - and that it does. The right study material is a very big advantage indeed! At least one volunteer examiner resigned rather than participate in the testing saying he disagreed with the "system." But it is the system now.

Gordon never meant to market the test guides and says he won't once the League and AMECO has theirs. They were intended for his classes. West makes his living teaching ham radio. Both the League and AMECO have them in production. The recent West Radio School pass rate gives us an idea of what to expect once the questions and answers become widely known.

Gordon said "We are in the cassette educational business, not the publishing business -- but when there is no other book around that reflects the new questions and answers, you can bet we'll come up with one to help our students out!" (If you want either the Element 3 (Tech/General) or 4A (Advanced) Test Guide, send $19.95 (plus $3.00 postage) to: West Radio School; 2414 College Drive; Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

20-kHz TWO-METER BANDPLAN ADOPTED

The Michigan Area Repeater Council, Inc., publishes the "North American Frequency Coordination Newsletter." MARC's Chairman, is Corwin Moore, WB8UPM, the same amateur that petitioned the FCC to require Land Mobile interests to eventually change to narrow band (ACSB) emissions to take the pressure off of the ham bands.

At its December meeting, MARC voted overwhelmingly to adopt the Northwest 20-kHz Bandplan for two-meters rather than the "ARRL-East, Non-inverted 15-kHz Plan." Michigan thus joins Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Utah, British Columbia, and Arizona with a 20-kHz 2-meter band plan. It is the first non-western state to do so.

Maybe not for long, however. The 20-kHz bandplan is likely to be adopted for Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. The Texas VHF Society Winter Convention will be held in Arlington, Texas, next month and heading the agenda is the possible adoption of the 20-kHz. two-meter bandplan.